



U.S. Coast Guard News

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COAST GUARD INVESTIGATION TO CONVENE WED. INTO COLLISION ON OHIO RIVER

The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville, Ky., will convene a formal investigation 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Gene Snyder Federal Courthouse Building, into the collision between the towing vessel *Elaine G* and a pleasure craft, which occurred July 15.

The three-day investigation is open to the public and will be in courtroom 4 of the federal courthouse building, which is located at 601 Broadway Street, Louisville, Ky.

The collision between *Elaine G*, which was pushing 14 empty barges, and the 17.6-foot pleasure craft occurred in the early morning and resulted in the deaths of six people.

“The purpose of the investigation is not to find fault, but to find the facts,” said Lt.j.g. Steven M. Garcia, an investigating officer for the accident.

Investigations of marine casualties are for the purpose of taking appropriate measures for promoting safety of life and property on the waterways, and are not intended to fix civil or criminal responsibility, according to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual.

Because this accident was of such magnitude and significance, the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District designated a formal investigation to look into the accident. This formal investigation ensures that every aspect of the case is probed.

Through the investigation, the Coast Guard's investigating officer and his staff will determine, as closely as possible, the following:

- The cause of the accident
- Whether there is evidence that any physical or design failure was involved or contributed to the casualty

- Whether there is evidence that any act of misconduct, inattention to duty, negligence or willful violation of the law on the part of any licensed or certified person contributed to the casualty
- Whether there is evidence that any Coast Guard personnel or any representative or employee of any other government agency or any other person caused or contributed to the cause of the casualty, or
- Whether the accident requires further investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigating officer will submit to the Commandant of the Coast Guard, a full and complete report of the facts determined and his recommendations.

Media agencies desiring to participate in coverage of the proceeding are requested to respond and provide the number of representatives, who are attending to ensure a seat is reserved. Video recording, audio recording and still photography will not be permitted in the courtroom.

To fulfill requests, contact the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office by phone at (502) 582-5194 or by fax at (502) 582-6825.

At the conclusion of each day of the investigation, a Coast Guard investigating officer will hold a press briefing to answer questions regarding the findings of that day.

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On an average day, the Eighth Coast Guard District saves 14 lives, \$7 million in property, and interdicts over 400 pounds of illegal drugs. The U.S. Coast Guard has served America's national security interests since 1790.